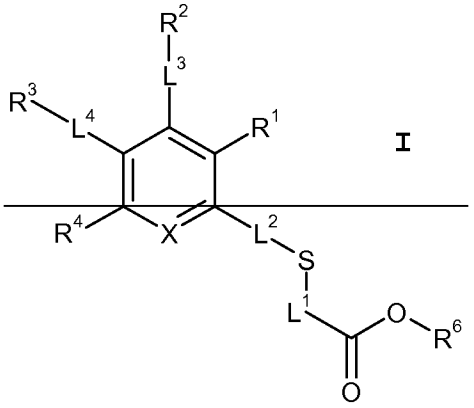
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 34~~formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:~~



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~~wherein~~

~~X is CH;~~

~~R^1 is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or -OR, -NHR, $-NR_2$ or –SR wherein R is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$;~~

~~R^2 is H, CF_3; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^3 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;~~

~~R^3 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^2 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;~~

~~R^4 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl;~~

~~R^6 is selected from H or optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-6} aryl and C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} aryl;~~

~~L^1 is optionally substituted C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene or $-L^5N(R^5)L^6-$, or C_{1-4} alkylene substituted by either C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{5-7} aryl, wherein L^5 and L^6 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene, and R^5 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl; and further wherein L^1 may be unsubstituted C_{1-4} alkylene when X is N;~~

~~L^2 is a single bond; and~~

~~L^3 and L^4 are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, $-L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$ and $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are~~

~~independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond~~.

2. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 37~~A method according to claim 1 wherein R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of H and cyano~~.

3. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 38~~A method according to claim 1 wherein R^6 is H or C_{1-7} alkyl~~.

4. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 39~~A method according to claim 1 wherein L^1 is chosen from the group consisting of phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH_2-phenylene- and -CH_2C(=O)NH-phenylene-~~.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 39~~A method according to claim 1 wherein L^3 is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, –~~

~~$L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}$- and –$L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}$-, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond~~.

7. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 44.~~A method according to claim 6 wherein L^3 is a single bond.~~

8. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 45.~~A method according to claim 1 wherein L^4 is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, –$L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}$- and –$L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}$-, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.~~

9. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 46~~A method according to claim 8 wherein L^4 is selected from the group consisting of –$CH_2N(OH)C(=O)$-, -phenylene-$CH_2N(OH)C(=O)$-, -phenylene-$NHN(OH)C(=O)$- and -$CH_2C(=O)N(OH)$-~~.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 47~~A method according to claim 1 wherein one of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H~~.

12. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 48~~A method according to claim 1 wherein two of R^1, R^2 and R^4 are H~~.

Claims 13-20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Canceled)

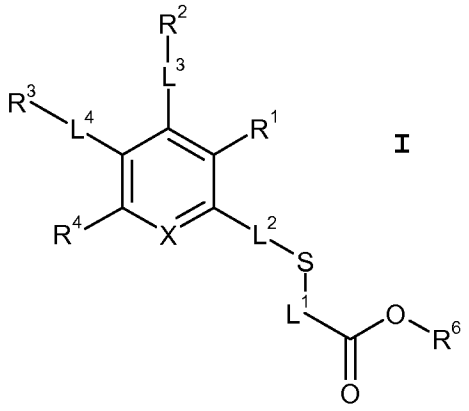
Claims 22-29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 34 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 32-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula **I**:



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or a salt, solvate or chemically protected form thereof wherein

X is CH;

R^1, R^2 and R^4 are [[is]] H~~; cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$; or $-OR$, $-NHR$, $-NR_2$ or $-SR$ wherein R is C_{1-4} alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or $-NH_2$;~~

~~R^2 is H, CF_3; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{5-7} heterocyclyl or together with R^3 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;~~

R^3 is [[H; or]] optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl ~~or together with R^2 an optionally substituted C_{3-4} alkylene group wherein L^3 and L^4 are single bonds thus forming a C_{5-6} ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L^3 and L^4 are attached;~~

~~R^4 is H; or optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl or C_{5-7} heterocyclyl;~~

R^6 is selected from H or optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-6} aryl and C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} aryl;

L^1 is optionally substituted [[C_{1-4} alkylene,]] C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene or $-L^5N(R^5)L^6-$, or C_{1-4} alkylene substituted by either C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{5-7} aryl, wherein L^5 and L^6 are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene, and R^5 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

L^2 is a single bond; and

L^3 is a single bond; and

L^4 [[are]]is independently selected from ~~a single bond, optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene,~~ $-L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$ and $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$, wherein L^9 and L^{10} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkylene, C_{5-6} arylene, C_{1-4} alkylene-C_{5-6} arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond~~; and~~

~~wherein the compound contains at least one –C(=O)N(OH)- group~~.

Claims 35-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L^4 is a L^9–C(=O)N(OH)- group.

38. (Original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L^9 is selected from C_{1-4}

alkylene and C_{5-6} arylene.

39. (Original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein L^9 is methylene or phenylene.

Claim 40. (Canceled)

Claims 41-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein R^3 is optionally substituted C_{5-6} aryl.

45. (Original) A compound according to claim 44 wherein R^3 is phenyl.

46. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein R^6 is H or C_{1-7} alkyl.

47. (Original) A compound according to claim 46 wherein R^6 is H or C_{1-3} alkyl.

48. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L^1 is phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, $-CH_2$-phenylene- or $-CH_2C(=O)NH$-phenylene-.

Claim 49. (Canceled)

Claim 50. (Canceled)